

The New Old Classics

TEXT
PHOTOS

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“Fashion” and “style” are two things that, if you claim to understand either, you’re probably wildly overdressed or wildly underdressed. But it’s never good to be either. When dressing for any occasion, be it a special event, a barbecue, a friendly game of badminton, or a court hearing, sometimes it’s best to play it safe and go with the classics. One could do worse than live by the motto of “When in doubt, dress like you’re going to the country club.” Because that look will forever be in style.

There are basic, very classic clothing staples everyone should have in their wardrobe. We scoured the Los Gatos boutique scene, Santana Row, and a few department stores to gather some classic and some modern versions of classic items that’ll keep your wardrobe timelessly fresh.



1. The White Button-Down Blouse.

A tailored white button down can go from boardroom (tucked beneath a sharp suit) to the beach (unbuttoned over a bikini). And since you *will* be using it often, invest in one that will withstand frequent washing.

2. The Cropped Jacket.

The perfect look for an updated "Ladies that Lunch" or, as is the case in the Silicon Valley, "Ladies that Power Lunch."



3. The Camisole. An essential building block of every women's wardrobe, the cute camisole is an investment that will last you years, if not a lifetime. Perfect for showing off your gorgeous tan on hot summer days, and equally pretty when paired with a cardigan for cool evenings.



4. The Knee-Length Knit Skirt.

Versatility, versatility, versatility. This skirt can be worn with twinset ballet flats, some big Jackie O glasses, and a scarf around your neck... very *Roman Holiday*. Or you could wear it to the theatre with a nice sleeveless turtleneck and a silk wrap.

5. The Black Blazer.

The perfect fit and lines are the key to a classic piece. A good blazer should have both. It's simple, yet the shiny lining inside tells people you're probably wearing lingerie.



6. The Capri.

Classic is a way of life, not just style. Capri pants are the perfect Bermudas for a leisurely game of croquette, badminton or bocce ball. Court whites only, please.

7. The Little Black Dress.

Every woman should own at least one little black dress with clean lines. And if it has something to keep it interesting (like a tasteful, small white bow), even better. But as always: Less is more.



One of the final steps in the production of a Brooks Brothers button-down shirt is to dip the garment in a Teflon liquid. This gives them their wrinkle-free quality. They had the patent on the process since the '50s, but it expired, so everyone's doing it now. Wash with like colors, tumble-dry and take them out 10 minutes before the cycle ends. Hang it up over night and presto: No dry cleaning required.

PRODUCT INFO:

1. White cotton button-down blouse by Nara Camille. At Leaf and Petal, \$152
2. Cream and gold short-sleeved cropped jacket by Nanette Lepore. At Rouge, \$329.
3. Cream colored, embroidered sleeveless top by Nanette Lepore. At Rouge, \$322.
4. Black knee-length knit skirt, two buttons by Robert Rodriguez. At Bettina Bella, \$315
5. Black, two-button women's blazer by Avenue Montaigne. At Bettina Bella, \$435
6. White Capri pants by Theory. At Leaf and Petal, \$178
7. Black bow-front dress by Betsy Johnson. At Kitsch Couture, \$315
8. "Advantage Chinos," Flat front khakis by Brooks Brothers. At Brooks Brothers, \$70
9. Navy blue zip-up jacket, red plaid liner by Ben Sherman. At Rouge, \$132.
10. White polo shirt by Ralph Lauren. At Macy's, \$75.
11. T-shirts by Forge. At Infiniti and Pacific Wave, \$14
12. Midnight navy blazer with gold buttons by Brooks Brothers. At Brooks Brothers, \$468
13. White button-down men's shirt by Brooks Brothers. At Brooks Brothers, \$75.
14. Dark wash men's jeans by Brooks Brothers. At Brooks Brothers, \$99
15. Brown leather belt with silver buckle by Brooks Brothers. At Brooks Brothers, \$98.
16. Tortoiseshell wayfarer sunglasses by Ray-Ban. At Optical Illusions, \$108
17. Gold frame aviator sunglasses by Ray-Ban. At Optical Illusions, \$149
18. Green and white tennis shoes by Adidas. At Nordstrom, \$60
19. "Tiburon Venetian," Black men's loafer by Cole Haan. At Cole Haan, \$245
20. Levi's 501s by Levi's. At Levi's, \$58

WHERE TO BUY:

Rouge, 50 N. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-8995 www.rougegirl.com

Bettina Bella, 320 N. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos (408) 335-1383 www.bettinasclothing.com

Leaf and Petal, 100 N. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos (408) 354-5666 www.lpetal.com

Ursula's Boutique, 140 W. Main St., Los Gatos (408) 395-1400 www.ursulas-boutique.com

Infiniti, 120 W. Main St., Los Gatos (408) 399-7071

Cole Haan, 377 Santana Row, Ste. 1005, San Jose (408) 615-7724 www.colehaan.com

Optical Illusions, 378 Santana Row, Ste. 1025, San Jose (408) 261-1010 www.santanarow.com

Brooks Brothers, 333 Santana Row, San Jose (408) 244-1815 www.brooksbrothers.com

Kitsch Couture, 20490 Saratoga - Los Gatos Rd., Saratoga (408) 872-1104 www.kitschcouture.com

Levi's Jeans www.levi.com

Ralph Lauren www.ralphlauren.com

Adidas www.adidas.com

Pacific Wave, 1502 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz (831) 458-9283

8. The Flat Front Khakis.

Before they were the foundation of business casual, they were the meaning of hip in the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s. Cool on Ice Cube with a cuff and a crease, or on Bill Gates with cuff links.

9. Navy Windbreaker.

Not to be confused with its Members Only estranged sibling, the classic windbreaker goes sailing or shopping for Rod Lavers.

10. The White Knit Polo.

Brands may vary (see also: the Penguin version), but the Polo is also short for "pull over" and can be worn with style and grace to any outdoor event.

16. Ray-Ban Wayfarer.

Before Tom Cruise made the world safe for aviator shades in *Top Gun*, he was in *Risky Business* rocking the Wayfarer. Not surprisingly, they were cool before he wore them.

11. The Soft Cotton Tee.

We found these T-shirts by Forge that do small dye batches and use a light enzyme wash to slightly distress the shirt and soften it. Casual, but not too casual. The lived-in look hasn't gone out of style since the caveman.

12-15. The Navy Blazer.

Seen here in its natural state, the navy blazer goes perfect with a white button-down shirt, jeans, and a hot babe. Note the gold buttons.

17. Ray-Ban Aviators.

These shades speak for themselves. They define classic eyewear from 30,000 feet, and they quite literally go with everything from a Hugo Boss suit to a bikini.

19. The Black Loafer.

From James Dean to James Bond, the simple black loafer has always worked. Worn with jeans, it says, "I may own a yacht." Worn with nice slacks, it says, "I probably own a yacht."

13. The White Button-Down Shirt. Go untucked with a blazer and jeans, or tucked with your nicest suit. As a rule, you should own 1.5 of these shirts for every pair of jeans in your closet. It is the safest, most classic staple worn above the waist.

20. Levi's 501s. There was a point when Europeans would pay \$600 for a pair just so they'd look like cool Americans. Suckers. Even after that, they're still in style.

18. Rod Lavers. When choosing sneakers, you might as well wear the shoes of the greatest tennis player of all time. They go with jeans, khakis, or if you're adventurous, a casual, light-colored suit.

MEN'S